

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the first full paragraph on page 3 as follows:**

The TexTest™ equipment comprises an octagonal prismatic central block, working as a supporting structure, where 8 platforms are rigidly attached in a radial orientation. Each platform is the bed for an "arm", responsible for applying a force and displacement to one of the 8 jaws where the specimen is attached. Each one of these 8 "arms" is made up of an electric actuator with speed reducer, coupled to a linear drive, in series with a load cell and a gripping jaw.

**Please amend the second full paragraph on page 6 as follows:**

FIG. 2 is a side view of the testing machine, showing another view of the central block 7, which is supported by 4 anti-vibration mounts 10 to regulate the machine ~~levelling~~leveling and to stabilize the central block 7. To attach the mounts 10 to the central block 7, ~~are used~~ angle steel 9 with standard dimensions are used.

**Please amend the third full paragraph on page 6 as follows:**

Referring to FIG. 3 it is possible to see an exploited view of one "arm" allowing a detailed observation of all components of the "arm". Each flange 2 functions as the basis of each "arm", supporting its components. An "arm" is composed firstly by a geared motor 1 to allow the necessary torque at low rotations. The connection between the geared motor 1 and the screw type linear drive 3 is done by spindles joint 8, selected considering the diameter and the maximum torque supported by the screw type linear drive. The screw type linear drive 3 is a mechanism to transform a rotational movement (from the motor) into a linear displacement (to the gripping jaw), so the displacement sense of the gripping jaw only depends of the sense rotation of the motor. The screw type linear drive 3 was chosen to get an axial alignment with the applied force, eliminating flecional moments. Its connection to the flange 2 is done by 2 supports 12, with the

height necessary to keep the spindles alignment. On the other end of the screw type linear drive 3 it was placed an articulation head 13 linked to a clevis 15 by a stud 14. This set is used to minimize the negatives consequences of possible horizontal misalignments. The clevis 15 is prepared to connect to the load cell 4, which is ~~the responsible to~~ for converting the force value applied to test specimen in an electric value in order to be acquired and processed by the control system. ~~To finish the "arm" constitution only remain to refer~~ the gripping jaw 6, is linked to the load cell 4 by an element 16 designed to fit correctly into the joined elements. The gripping jaw 6 is manually screwed and the ~~mordant teeth~~ of the gripping jaw can be replaced by others with different shapes and different test specimen contact surfaces, specifically to the test specimen material. ~~Independently, the mordant teeth, it must guarantee the~~ generate sufficient friction with the test specimen, proportional to the screw force, to impeding any slipping. The gripping jaw 6 seats on a piece 17 designed to attach correctly the gripping jaw 6 to a non lubricated slide carriage 11, which moves on a slide rail 5. This set, composed by the slide carriage 11 and the slide rail 5, forms the guidance of the gripping jaw 6, driving it according to the "arm" direction.

**Please amend the first full paragraph on page 8 as follows:**

As referred, all "arms" are independent from each other, what meanings only certain arms are operated depending on that only work the necessary "arms" to the desired kind of assay. The placement of the test specimen is done by holding its extremities in the gripping jaw ~~mordant teeth~~. Obviously the test specimen shape must be defined according to the kind of assay to be performed.